United Nations S/2003/969

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 October 2003
English
Original: French

Letter dated 7 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I regret to have to convey to you our total indignation and revulsion over the latest massacre perpetrated in Katchele, a village situated about 70 kilometres north-west of Bunia, the main town of the Ituri district.

According to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), 23 civilians, mainly women, children and old persons, were killed there on 6 October 2003 with machetes and automatic weapons. The massacre was accompanied by pillaging.

Other local sources are reporting the murder of 32 other persons, who were buried in mass graves before the arrival of the United Nations investigators.

My Government urgently requests the Security Council to:

1. Speed up the sending of reinforcements to MONUC in the Ituri district so that it can do more and act more decisively to advance the process of stabilizing and securing the entire district of Ituri that started with the deployment of the Interim Multinational Emergency Force;

2. Conduct a thorough investigation of the unfortunate events that took place in Katchele so as to identify those responsible and bring the perpetrators of these latest human rights violations to justice;

3. Address the unavoidable general issue of the impunity that has for some time now prevailed in the Ituri district, with a view to compelling the warlords who hold sway there, and their outside supporters, to answer for their reprehensible acts before national and international judicial bodies.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileka **Atoki**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-54711 (E) 081003 081003